

THE FREEDOM LANDS
AND MARCHES OF
ABERDEEN,
1319-1929



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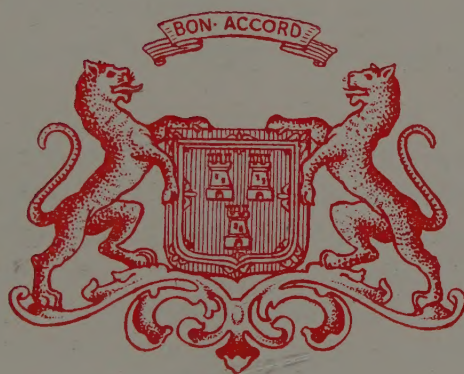
THE FREEDOM LANDS AND MARCHES
OF ABERDEEN.



KING ROBERT THE BRUCE
(b. 1274, d. 1329).
(Statue at Gateway to Edinburgh Castle.)

THE FREEDOM LANDS AND MARCHES OF ABERDEEN


1319—1929.



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1929.

PREFACE.

IX hundred years have elapsed since the death of King Robert the Bruce, who, in 1319, granted a charter to the Burgesses of Aberdeen, conveying to them what has been known down the intervening centuries as the Freedom Lands, or, more shortly, "The Freedom." The Town Council, being desirous that the sex-centenary of the passing of this great Monarch should have some landmark in the civic history of the City, authorised the publication of a small commemorative volume containing a record of the facts and circumstances of the grant of "The Freedom." The present volume has, accordingly, been compiled, and is now submitted to the Council and citizens of Aberdeen.

In authorising this publication, the Town Council invite the citizens to forget for a moment the things of the present, and to glance backward across the centuries to this signal mark of royal favour to our Ancient City. On this early page in our civic history is engrossed a story equally creditable to our leal-hearted ancestors and to their Monarch who so honourably shed the light of his generosity upon them. It shows that through the long and bitter night of the devastating Wars for the Independence of Scotland, the burghers of Aberdeen proved their fealty, patriotism and valour, and that a great and upright Monarch, once he had achieved the noble ideal towards which he had striven, did not forget his faithful followers, nor withhold from them a large-hearted measure of his favour and gratitude.

The following pages give a short historical survey of the subject of the King's bounty, and the use to which the citizens, in the course of the centuries, put the territorial grant they received from the hands of their Sovereign. These Lands have had a chequered

history, but, while practically their whole extent has been alienated mostly by way of feu, the City has always jealously guarded the marches of their ancient heritage, which have been perambulated at various intervals during the last 600 years, and as lately as 1889. The Riding of the Marches, if of little or no utilitarian significance in these latter days, serves to remind successive generations of citizens that they are all members one of another, and each, in their day and generation, of an ever-developing communal organism. The past pages of our civic history contain not only historic associations which we should not willingly let die, but lessons in civic government to the present and succeeding generations.

In the preparation of this publication, acknowledgment is gratefully made to Mr. James Cruickshank, Westwood, Stoneywood, for supplying most of the historical and pictorial data, and to Mr. D. B. Gunn, Town Clerk Depute, for assembling these data in the form in which they are now presented.

James R. Rust

Lord Provost.

G. S. Fraser

Town Clerk.

TOWN HOUSE,
ABERDEEN,
December, 1929.

CONTENTS.

| | <i>Page.</i> |
|--|--------------|
| Preface - - - - - | v. |
| PART I.—NARRATIVE. | |
| Origin of City - - - - - | 1 |
| Early Political History - - - - - | 2 |
| Early Territorial History - - - - - | 3 |
| The Marches - - - - - | 3 |
| The Inner Marches - - - - - | 4 |
| The Outer Marches - - - - - | 5 |
| The Freedom Lands - - - - - | 7 |
| Bogfairley - - - - - | 12 |
| Countesswells - - - - - | 12 |
| Cruives - - - - - | 12 |
| Forresterhill - - - - - | 12 |
| Hazlehead - - - - - | 13 |
| Kingswells - - - - - | 13 |
| Rubislaw - - - - - | 13 |
| Sheddocksley - - - - - | 13 |
| Tulloch - - - - - | 13 |
| Kepplehills - - - - - | 14 |
| Southfield - - - - - | 14 |
| Westfield - - - - - | 14 |
| Northfield - - - - - | 14 |
| Other Portions - - - - - | 14 |
| The Common Good - - - - - | 15 |
| Riding of the Marches - - - - - | 15 |
| Bibliography - - - - - | 17 |
| PART II.—APPENDICES. | |
| Appendix I.— | |
| Charter by King Robert the Bruce to the Burgesses of Aberdeen, 10th December, 1319 (Translation) - - - - - | 18 |
| Appendix II.— | |
| Letter by Mary, Queen of Scots, under the Great Seal, empowering the Lord Provost, Baillies, Council and Community of Aberdeen and a majority of their fellow-citizens to feu the Freedom Lands, 8th February, 1551 (Translation) - - - | 19 |

Appendix III.—

| | |
|---|----|
| Confirming Charter by Mary, Queen of Scots, dated 15th September, 1553 (Translation) - - - - - | 21 |
|---|----|

Appendix IV.—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Description of March Stones - - - - - | 25 |
|---------------------------------------|----|

Appendix V.—

| | |
|--|----|
| References in Council Register and Minutes to Perambulations of the Marches - - - - - | 35 |
|--|----|

PART III.—ILLUSTRATIONS.

| | |
|---|----|
| King Robert the Bruce (<i>Frontispiece</i>) - - - - - | |
| Charter by King Robert the Bruce, bestowing Stocket Forest to the Burgesses of Aberdeen, 1319 - - - - - <i>facing page</i> | 8 |
| Houses on Lands feued in 1551— | |
| Countesswells House - - - - - | 39 |
| Hazlehead House - - - - - | 39 |
| Forresterhill House - - - - - | 40 |
| Sheddocksley House - - - - - | 40 |
| Kingswells House - - - - - | 41 |
| Rubislaw House - - - - - | 41 |
| Woodside House - - - - - | 42 |
| Tulloch Farmhouse and Steading - - - - - | 42 |
| Houses on portions refeued in 1760— | |
| Fairley House - - - - - | 43 |
| Cloghill House - - - - - | 43 |
| Borrowstone - - - - - | 44 |
| Dykeside - - - - - | 44 |
| Manse of Newhills - - - - - | 45 |
| Middlefield House - - - - - | 45 |
| Springhill House - - - - - | 46 |
| Whitemyres House - - - - - | 46 |
| Craigiebuckler House - - - - - | 47 |
| Burnieboozle House - - - - - | 47 |
| Auchmill House - - - - - | 48 |
| Bucksburn House - - - - - | 48 |
| Hilton House - - - - - | 49 |
| Fernielea - - - - - | 49 |
| Marches— | |
| Union Glen - - - - - | 50 |
| March Lane - - - - - | 50 |
| Stone A - - - - - | 50 |
| Stone 1 - - - - - | 50 |

| | <i>Page.</i> |
|--|----------------------------|
| Marches (<i>cont.</i>)— | |
| Stone 6 - - - - - | 51 |
| Stone 8 - - - - - | 51 |
| Stone 12 - - - - - | 51 |
| Stone 13 - - - - - | 51 |
| Stone 18 - - - - - | 52 |
| Stone 28 - - - - - | 52 |
| Stone 61 - - - - - | 52 |
| Hilton Stone - - - - - | 52 |
| Stone 27 ("The Ringing Stone") - - - - - | 53 |
| Stone 31 ("The Doupin' Stone") - - - - - | 53 |
| Stone 49 - - - - - | 54 |
| Stone ൯ - - - - - | 54 |
| Near Stone 34—"Jollies Howe" - - - - - | 55 |
| Near Stone 44—Bucksburn "Howes" - - - - - | 55 |
| Woodend Hospital - - - - - | 56 |
| Maidencraig - - - - - | 56 |
| Bucksburn Mill - - - - - | 57 |
| Mill of Brotherfield - - - - - | 57 |
| Long Cairn (Neolithic Age), Kingswells - - - - - | 58 |
| Round Cairn (Bronze Age), Cults - - - - - | 58 |
| Den of Fairley - - - - - | 59 |
| Gillahill - - - - - | 59 |
| Consumption Dyke, Kingswells - - - - - | 60 |
| Rough's Cairn - - - - - | 60 |
| Quakers' Churchyard, Kingswells - - - - - | 61 |
| Newhills Churchyard - - - - - | 61 |
| Dry-Stone Bridge at Easter Ord - - - - - | 62 |
| Old Stepping Stones—Bucksburn "Howes" - - - - - | 62 |
| Justice Mills - - - - - | 63 |
| Cairnery - - - - - | 63 |
| Gallow Hill Stone - - - - - | 63 |
| Brimmond Chart - - - - - | 63 |
| Brimmond Hill - - - - - | 64 |
| Watchman Brae - - - - - | 64 |
| Map - - - - - | <i>(in Pocket at end).</i> |

The Freedom Lands and Marches of Aberdeen.

ORIGIN OF THE CITY.

It is not unreasonable to suppose that, because of its barricaded geographical position, Aberdeen and its hinterland, bounded on two sides by the sea, and on the third by a great mountain chain, would have felt the touch of the northward urge of civilisation later than the more open lands to the south of the Kingdom. But whether due to an early manifestation in the founders of the City of that shrewdness and vision which characterise their descendants to this day, or to the necessity of early communal efforts for self-preservation, there appears little doubt that in early times Aberdeen was a town of substantial importance, long before the Capital had attained any considerable civic significance, and while the great City on the Clyde was still a mean cluster of hovels round the palace of the Bishop.

Of the origin of the City, or of its early inhabitants, little is known. There is no specific mention in the military records of Rome that the Imperial legions ever penetrated to that province of Britain lying to the north-east of the Grampians, but on the other hand, it is thought that the Devanah of Ptolomy's Geography may represent some locality in Aberdeen or the neighbourhood. The first emergence of Aberdeen over the horizon of history appears to have occurred in the reign of Gregory, King of the Scots, who, towards the end of the ninth century, is said to have made Aberdeen a Royal Burgh, but apart from certain references in the writings of Boetius, there is little evidence in support of this early royal favour.

EARLY POLITICAL HISTORY.

The City enters into authentic history during the dynasty of the Celtic Kings of Scotland, most of whom were not only generous in their grants to the City, but also lavish in the dignities they conferred upon her. From Malcolm Canmore, in 1057, to Alexander III., in 1286, the Celtic monarchs enriched Aberdeen by the granting of many privileges and immunities, but perhaps the greatest of these royal benefactors was William the Lion, who granted the City its first existing charter about 1179. This monarch kept his court for some time in Aberdeen, hunted in the Stocket Forest, and, allowing for changes in times and circumstances, maintained a relationship with the City comparable to that re-established nearly 700 years later by the present Royal House in 1852.

With the passing of the Celtic Kings, and the death of the Maid of Norway, the centre of political gravity which, under that dynasty, was not acutely focussed, moved southwards to the marches with England. During the Wars of Independence, Aberdeen maintained a sturdy loyalty and, while distant from the main seat of operations, played an effective part in the struggle. The stern exigencies of the times prevented King Robert the Bruce from hunting in his distant forest of the Stocket, and, in 1313, no doubt actuated by a desire to retain the goodwill of the town during his struggle, he gave a limited grant of the Stocket to the Burgesses. In 1319, when the Kingdom was passing through its post-war period of depression and the war-drained Exchequer sorely needed replenishing, and when, at the same time, the victorious monarch felt he had an honourable duty to perform to those whose steadfast fealty helped him to establish the independence of the Kingdom, a regular feudal Charter of the burgh itself and of the Stocket forest was granted the burgesses. This Charter, besides being a reward for patriotism and staunch services, put the relationship between the King and the Burgesses of Aberdeen on a proper feudal basis, and probably represents the transformation of the allodial tenure into a feudal tenure. The terms of the Charter are as set forth in Appendix I. hereto. The Forest of the Stocket, together with certain additional areas, comprises what is known as "The Freedom Lands," or more shortly "The Freedom."

EARLY TERRITORIAL HISTORY.

After allusion to the political factors leading up to the gift of the Stocket Forest to the City, and before proceeding to consider in detail the Freedom Lands and their chequered history, it seems desirable to refer to the ancient territorial divisions of the burgh, and to bring together all the elements which went to make up the territory over which the Burgesses had jurisdiction in one form or another.

All the evidence available goes to show that the early development of the town was in accordance with ancient land practice. There was the nucleus or central area in which the dwelling houses and other erections were situated ; and round this nucleus lay the arable lands, known as the Crofts, which, under certain regulations, were devoted to the raising of crops and to animal husbandry. These Crofts formed a complete zone round the inhabited Town, and their outer boundary constitutes what is known as the Town's "Inner Marches." Outside these marches lay the common lands, which were devoted to the provision of pasturage and fuel. These common lands, generally speaking, came to be known as the Freedom Lands, and included the Forest of Stocket which, though a royal hunting ground from early times, also provided the citizens with pasturage and fuel. The outer boundary of the common lands was known as the "Outer Marches."

THE MARCHES.

The observance of boundaries or marches and the preservation of landmarks are of remote origin, and go back to the time when man took one of his early steps along the path of civilization. At first, no doubt, the landmarks were natural objects, such as hills, trees and streams, and the rough tracks or highways of the time, but as early society grew in complexity, the necessity for marks of artificial construction arose, and with these came the collateral necessity of guarding against their removal. Both the civil and ecclesiastical authorities, from very early times, sought to inculcate, by injunction and penalty, into all classes of the community a proper respect for the boundary of property, as marked in this artificial way. A

perambulation or riding of the Marches at frequent intervals was undertaken for the purpose of ensuring that the landmarks were not moved, or if moved, that they were restored to their original position.

THE INNER MARCHES.

These Marches are, in all probability, older than the Outer Marches, and bounded the City proper. They were inspected from time to time by the City fathers, although perhaps not with the same ceremony as the Outer Marches. The most accurate description of these Marches is contained in the March Inspector's book, dated 1849, and is in the following terms:—"The Inner Marches of the Burgh or Royalty are immemorially known and established as follows, viz.—By a line commencing at the Influx of the Ferryhill Burn, otherwise called Justice Mills Burn, into the River Dee, then holding up the said Burn of Ferryhill to the East Boundary of Damhead or Union Grove, turning up by the Justice Mill dam, and crossing the Skene Turnpike Road leading from Union Place and keeping along the East boundary of the Lands of Rubislaw to the branch of the Skene turnpike road, which leads from Skene Street and the Schoolhill, thence crossing this Branch or road, and including Cherryvale, Hardweird, and the late Robert Mackie's property to Jack's brae, by a small lane, from thence turning towards the Town by the road leading to Jack's brae, and including the Buildings from the House sometime occupied by William Reid on the North side of said road, and running along the North boundary of the ground connected with the said Buildings till it reaches the enclosing wall of the property occupied by the Gilcomston Brewery Company, then keeping along that wall to a March Stone at the Gate leading to the Mill of Gilcomston, and passing through the Kiln connected with that Mill, and by a March Stone till it reach the Mill Lead or Burn where there is another March Stone, and along the back course of that Burn by the Steps of Gilcomston, including the works used as a Distillery by the Gilcomston Brewery Company to a point opposite the Gate leading to the Broadford Works, from this point nearly in a straight line to the point where the Burn of Broadford crosses the Burn coming

from Froghall and Causewayend, and thence up the course of the last mentioned Burn to the Aberdeenshire Canal, at a point a few yards southward of the Canal Lock, at or near Froghall, thence across the Canal and in a line to a March stone of the Town of Aberdeen marked No. 61, and from thence in a straight line to a March stone on the East side of the Spittal Road near Love Lane, marked No. 62, thence Eastward along the South boundary of the Spittal Lands to the Old Town Links, and then turning Northward by the East boundary of the Spittal Lands and along the Old Town Links till it joins the Tyle Burn, and keeping along the said Burn to the River Don, then along the Don to the Sea Beach, and along the Sea Beach to the mouth of the Dee, then crossing it, and keeping along the Floodmark on the south side of that River to the Craiglug and there crossing the Dee, and keeping the Course of that River Eastward to the point of commencement at the Burn of Ferryhill or Justice Mill Burn."

THE OUTER MARCHES.

The Outer Marches bounded the Freedom lands, which consisted of the ground formerly covered by the Stocket Forest, together with the lands of Rubislaw and the Cruives, which were purchased at a later date. While the Freedom lands remain substantially as they originally were in area, the actual Marches have been modified from time to time to suit new conditions. The Marches to the East and West have not been changed to any appreciable extent, but on the North and South certain changes have taken place in the progress of the centuries.

The Marches to the East rested largely upon the Inner Marches which have already been referred to; to the North they appear to have run along the then great north highway or *via regia*, which, when supplanted by newer highways along lower levels, became known as the Chapman Road. This road has now in large part been absorbed into agricultural land, but there are still various actual evidences of its existence, in addition to what may be found in old writings and maps. To the West they ran along a series of burns and watersheds, viz. :—the Brodiach, Wyndford, Tulloch, Blind and Garlet Burns. The original line of the Southern Marches

remains obscure, but it seems most likely that there was an early road, similar to the great north highway, leading to Echt and Skene, and possibly to Upper Deeside. In all probability, this early road followed the line of Great Western Road, Craigton Road, and the rough continuation thereof which, in the description of 1840, was referred to as the Landmyr or March Road. Traces remain of a very old road further west, and in continuation of the line indicated above, while at Easter Ord, the Commutation Road Map of 1860 shows a ford and a road leading westward some distance therefrom. There is no evidence to show that this Great West Road went over Beans Hill along the line of the present marches, but it is possible that, when artificial landmarks were introduced in place of the rough tracks of the times, the marking was made on the nearest convenient boulder, when there was no suitable object on the original March which could be so marked.

As the organisation of society grew more complex, and the old rude paths along or near the ridges gave place to a more advanced type of road, in the construction of which more consideration was given to gradients, the need for more specific artificial landmarks naturally arose. The first mention of such landmarks occurs in a quaint description of the Marches in 1525, from which it may be gathered that boulders on or near the line of the Marches bore cup or saucer marks, so as to distinguish them as marking the line of the Marches. It appears also that, when it was desired to emphasise a particular March stone, the letter "P" for "Propertie" was used. Markings in the shape of a key were also used to designate certain march stones. The cup mark system reached its most complete form in the year 1698, and the marches were so marked until about 1790, when lettered and numbered stones were introduced, first as far as Stone No. 48 at Auchmill, near Bucksburn. Some twenty years later, the remaining portion of the Marches was so marked, and by 1810, the whole length of the Outer Marches had letter and numbered stones, each stone bearing a consecutive number and the letters "A B D" for "Aberdeen." While in the main these stones were placed adjacent to their cup-marked predecessors, there were some omissions, and additional stones were inserted in the Marches at

certain points. For one reason or another, with rapid urban and agricultural development, a number of these stones completed and in place in 1810, were removed or lost, but they have been replaced from time to time, with the result that, at the present date, the chain is complete. There are still 15 cup stones in existence.

The Outer Marches, as they exist to-day, take leave of the Inner Marches at Stone No. 1 at 81, Hardgate, and follow a line along the Hardgate, Fonthill Road, Nellfield Place, Great Western Road and Craigton Road to the Dam of Cults. Thereafter for a considerable distance the line is through comparatively open country, but it may be taken roughly as connecting the following points—Dam of Cults, Top of Murtle Den, Easter Ord, Borrowstone, along Blind Burn, Garlet Burn, the Chapman Road, and a line connecting Ashtown, Wagley, the Ford over the Bucks Burn, Dancing Cairns, Scatterburn, Persley Bridge, Grandholm Bridge, Woodside School. From the last named point the Marches again pass through urban districts and follow Smithfield Road, Hilton Avenue, Hilton Road, Back Hilton Road, Powis Terrace, Elmbank Terrace, Froghall Terrace and the Spital. At Stone No. 61, where they join the Inner Marches, the line of continuation is as follows :—St. Peter's Street, Seaforth Road, an undefined line to the Don, the Beach to Footdee, the Harbour, South Market Street, North Esplanade West, and thence to 81, Hardgate, the starting point.

The Outer Marches, as outlined above, encircle an area which includes (1) the City Royalty and (2) the Freedom Lands.

Appendix IV. hereto gives the following details of the landmarks of the Outer Marches :—(a) Stone Number, (b) Description and Location of Stones in 1929, (c) Description and Location of Stones in 1698, as recorded by Kennedy in his "Annals" in 1818, and (d) Additional Notes, including references to the 1525 Descriptions.

A map showing the Inner and Outer Marches of the City will be found in the pocket at the end hereof.

THE FREEDOM LANDS.

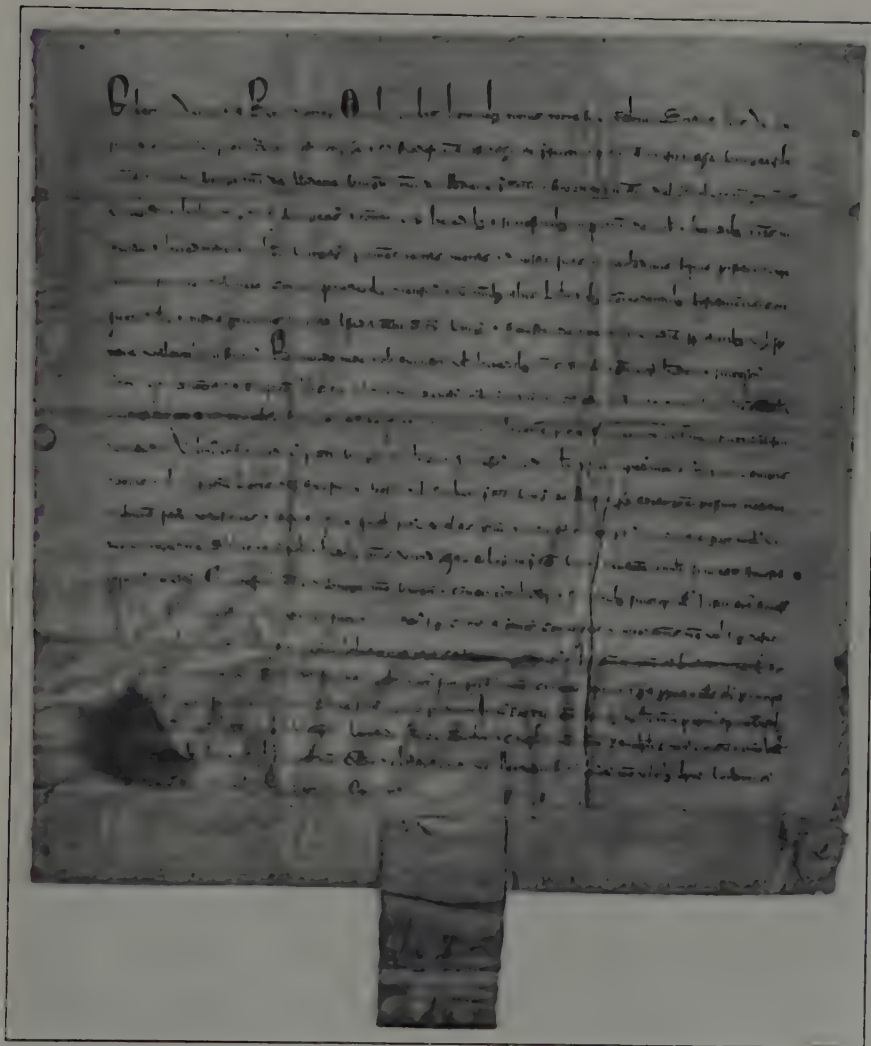
The extent of the City's territorial possessions included (1) the Stocket Forest granted to the City by King Robert the Bruce in 1319,

as already indicated ; (2) the Lands of Rubislaw, purchased by the City in 1379 ; (3) the Lands of Cruives (now known as Woodside), purchased in 1459 ; (4) the Lands of Caprastone (now known as Hilton), purchased in 1595 ; and (5) the Lands of Gilcomston, purchased in 1673; but strictly speaking, the Freedom Lands included the parcels 1, 2 and 3 above mentioned only.

It would appear that, in very early times, the Stocket was not an isolated forest, but part of a vaster stretch of forest lands which extended westwards to Braemar and northwards to Kintore. The Stocket portion was, like the rest of this vast forest area, wild, undeveloped country, and of it, as late as 1661, Parson Gordon writes : "Any where after you pass a myle outside the town, the country is barren lyke, the hills craigy, the plains full of marshes and mosses, the fields covered with heather or pebble stones, the corn fields mixed with these, but few." Kennedy confirms this description as late as 1818, and even to this day the words of Parson Gordon may truthfully be applied to certain areas which have defied the science of husbandry.

The citizens, in 1319, appear to have appreciated the bounty of the good King, and to have entered into their new possessions in a business-like manner. Among the earliest entries in the City records, which date from 1398, are found references to the arrangements made for the maintenance of their right in the Forest. Foresters were appointed to guard it, and it seems clear that the marches were regularly inspected long before the first written account of 1525. It seems feasible that Forresterhill takes its name from some association with these early forest guards.

As already indicated, the Stocket was, at the date of the Charter by which it was granted to the City, primarily a hunting ground to which the citizens had certain immemorial privileges of pasturage and fuel. The charter, it is true, reserved sporting and timber rights, but otherwise the City obtained absolute possession. The city fathers of those days quickly realised the value of this new possession, and instinctively looked about for means whereby revenue would accrue therefrom. From a very early date, certain portions of the Stocket were let on short tacks, chiefly to leading burgesses,



CHARTER BY KING ROBERT THE BRUCE, BESTOWING STOCKET FOREST TO THE BURGESSES OF ABERDEEN, 1319.

who, in some cases, appear to have had sub-tenants. Attempts by neighbouring proprietors to encroach on the Freedom Lands were frequent. In 1479, for instance, Andrew Fraser of Stoneywood and Clinterty laid claim to the Tulloch portion and Alderman Scherar had to proceed to Edinburgh to defend the Town's rights before the Lords of Council. Similar attempts, in which they were sometimes successful, were made by the proprietors of Craibstone. In 1531, when the existing tacksmen or leaseholders were about to be subjected to a levy for the defence of the town, the records show that the leading tacks were in respect of Rubislaw, Sheddocksley, Gairn (Countesswells), Forresterhill, Hazlehead, Kingswells, Bogfairly and Tulloch. These holdings did not, by any means, compose the whole of the Stocket, but were, at that time, probably the cultivated portions known as "infield," to which were adjoined considerably larger portions of rough pasture known as "outfield." In spite of many modern sub-divisions, these holdings still form the main divisions of the whole area.

The year 1551 was perhaps the most crucial in the whole financial history of the City, for if a decision then taken had not been carried into effect, the City at the present time would be one of the richest Corporations in the country. In that year, a head court of the burgesses decided by a majority to approach Mary, Queen of Scots, for powers to feu the town's lands and fishings for certain fixed feu duties, with an immediate money payment as composition for entry. The Queen at once acceded to the request, and the City obtained in 1551 the necessary authority (see Appendix II.)—the consideration being a payment of 2,500 merks to the Exchequer. The most desirable portions of the City's patrimony were quickly feued, despite rigorous opposition by a party of the burgesses, and, in the main, to those who formerly held tacks thereof from the City. Thus, within a few years, the town parted with the bulk of King Robert's gift for a sum equal to £180 Sterling, and a fixed annual income of £70 Sterling. The transaction was no doubt beneficial to the town at the time, the feu duties fixed being in all probability their fair value, yet the City is to-day very much the poorer by the alienation of its patrimony by this method nearly four centuries ago.

The present annual value of the then alienated property is a colossal amount compared with the paltry sum received by way of feu duty. These feu duties are occasionally augmented by payment of casualties, which, on account of the greatly enhanced value of the subjects, have become valuable, but this source of augmentation disappears at the end of the current year by which time all casualties fall to be redeemed.

For this grave, unexpected and totally unnatural financial blunder, various reasons have been given. The most common is the load of debt that oppressed the town at the time of the alienation. At the same time, the growing value of the property led to keen competition for tacks, resulting in dispeace within the town. Again, there was the example of the Church, who, sensing the approach of the Reformation upheaval, feued many of her lands, and thus made the feuing process attractive, familiar, and commendable. But, whatever the reason, and probably it was a combination of all the factors above referred to, the fact remains that an irreparable act of gross financial negligence had occurred. All that can be argued in favour of the transaction is that with security of tenure, the freedom lands were developed and brought into cultivation much earlier than would have been the case under the older system of tenure.

In the confirming Charter granted by the Queen in 1553 (see Appendix III.), there is incorporated a model feu charter, setting forth the terms on which the Town should feu the lands. It is laid down that it shall not be lawful in future to plough, manure, cultivate, burn or sow portions not then under cultivation, and that the other inhabitants of the burgh present and to come shall enjoy the benefit of feeding animals and flocks, carting and digging and leading earth, firewood, peats, turf, heath and all kinds of fuel within the Commonty as in manner and form they enjoyed previously.

While the most fertile portions of the Freedom lands were feued soon after 1551, other less desirable portions found no bidders at that stage. The town continued the feuing policy, however, and by degrees practically all the lots were disposed of. The map of Parson Gordon shows the extent of this feuing development up to

1661, while Francis Douglas in his "East Coast of Scotland" (1782) indicates the further advance of the process. The last feu was given off in 1870, and the only unfeued part of this once extensive territorial patrimony that the Town Council still retain in their own hands is at Fernielea, near Oldmill, and an exhausted moss at Kepplehills—the latter an unhappy reminder of former greatness.

The position with regard to Brimmond Hill stands apart, and while neighbouring feuars had been granted by the Town certain rights therein in respect of pasturage and fuel, it does not appear that the Town ever made a direct grant of the *solum* of the hill throughout the whole period of 319 years during which the feuing process went on.

It would appear that, in respect of the original feus, the grant applied to the cultivated portions and perhaps to a certain amount of rough pasture or "outfield" in each case, but it seems clear that the bulk of the outfield was still regarded as "Town's Commonty." This undefined "outfield," from the nature of things, lent itself to absorption, and even within a quarter of a century after the grant of the original feu charters, a number of the feuars or their tenants were found encroaching thereon for the purpose of bringing portions adjoining their holdings under cultivation. This state of matters was brought under the notice of the Council, with the result that there was held a perambulation by the Council on 22nd September, 1578, through the different estates, for the purpose of rectifying boundaries. The Council ordered that strong measures should be taken to keep their feuars within the limits of their Charters, but little or nothing effective or lasting resulted, except that about the year 1600 some steps were taken to adjust boundaries between neighbouring proprietors by deeds of agreement. The process of draining and trenching went on gradually until each proprietor took into his estate all that lay between him and his neighbours without any addition to the amount of feu duty he paid the Town.

Included within the limits of the Freedom lands were the Town's Mills. The position in regard to Oldmill is uncertain, but the New Mill or Denburne Mill, better known in later days as Maidencraig, seems to have served the South portion of the Freedom Lands, while the needs of the Northern portion were met by the Bucksburn

Mill. Both these Mills were erected by the Town about 1616, and were held on tack by various tenants until 1786 and 1828 respectively, when both were sold.

The history of the Freedom Lands after the Partition of 1551 is largely the history of the various estates that were then feued by the Town. These estates were quickly consolidated, and remained practically intact until recent times, although, of course, ownership changed from time to time. The main feus of 1551 were as under:—

BOGFAIRLEY was feued to Provost Menzies at a feu duty of £44 13s. 6d. Scots. One of its subsequent owners was George Davidson of Pettens, who acquired it in 1648 and in 1662 mortified the lands to the Town for the maintenance of a Minister there. About 1760 the Town re-feued the land in four parts—Fairley, Cloghill, Dykeside and Borrowstone. In 1676 the Town obtained a perpetual tack of the Tiends of Bogfairley, which tack still subsists.

COUNTESSWELLS—known originally by the various names Le Gardin, Gardyne, or Gairn—was feued to Thomas Chalmers at a feu duty of £40 Scots. Subsequent outstanding owners include Baillie Burnett of the Leys and Crathes family (about 1600), Provost Sandilands (1690), and Andrew Gammell (1809). Overboddam and Tillyjuck, feued in 1629, were added at a later date to Countesswells, and are now represented by Dalhebity. Kingshill was also one of the original feus of 1551—the feuar being one David Mar—but, being apparently considered worthless, it was added later to Countesswells, without any additional feu duty. The Free Moss, where citizens got fuel till the moss was exhausted, was gifted to the then owner of Countesswells in 1814. A considerable portion of this moss was repurchased by the Town Council, at a cost of £600, when they acquired Hazlehead in 1920.

CRUIVES (or Woodside) was feued to Gilbert Knowles at a feu duty of £40 Scots. It is identified with the development of Woodside, which, until 1891, was a separate burgh.

FORRESTERHILL was feued to Gilbert Colison at a feu duty of £20 Scots. This estate was, in comparatively recent times, purchased by the Town, who, in 1925 and 1928, sold parts of the central portion to the Governors of the Royal Sick Children's Hospital and the

Royal Infirmary respectively, for hospital purposes. Other parts of this estate are known as Ashgrove, Woodhill, Stockethill, Cornhill and Westburn.

HAZLEHEAD was feued to Robert Chalmers at a feu duty of £13 6s. 8d. Scots. After passing through various hands, including the well known Mortimer and Rose families, it was acquired by the Town Council in 1920 at a cost of £40,000. The estate is now used as a public reserve for the citizens and includes a golf course, for the laying out of which part of the moss referred to in a preceding paragraph was acquired.

KINGSWELLS was feued to John Arthur at a feu duty of £13 6s. 8d. Scots. It was owned subsequently for a long time by the well-known Jaffray family, and is at present held by the Trustees of the late Dr. Francis Edmond, who acquired the estate in 1854.

RUBISLAW was feued to Alexander Rutherford at a feu duty of £20 Scots, and about 1687 passed into the hands of the noted Skene family, with whom it remained until 1886. Now largely merged into the West end of the City, it is divided amongst many owners, the main division being Kepplestone.

SHEDDOCKSLEY was feued to John Irvin and Gilbert Tullideff at a feu duty of £53 6s. 8d. Scots. It was bought back by the Town in 1677 and re-feued in 1702. Fifty-seven years later it was again acquired by the Town and alienated a third time shortly afterwards. It has been much sub-divided in these processes, Gillahill, Newpark (Cuttle Hill), Whitemyres and Maidencraig being among the main divisions.

TULLOCH was feued to Gilbert Menzies at a feu duty of £4 Scots, and subsequently it was usually held by the different proprietors of Craibstone. In 1772 it was acquired by King's College, and is in part still owned by the University. In 1925 the University disposed of about three-quarters of the area of the estate to the Rowett Research Institute.

These nine estates, feued immediately the necessary powers were obtained from the Crown, may be regarded as the then valuable

bulk of the Freedom Lands, but, as time went on, other smaller or less valuable portions of these Lands were feued as under :—

KEPPLEHILLS was feued in 1579, at a feu duty of £40 Scots, to William Forbes, who changed the name to Newhills. This estate was acquired about 1650 by George Davidson of Pettens, already referred to, who, in 1662, mortified it to provide a stipend for the Minister of the Parish of Newhills, which, about the same time, was disjoined from Old Machar. The estate then resumed the old name of Kepplehills, and has since been held by the incumbent. In 1676 it was enacted that each minister of Newhills should enrol as a Burgess of Guild or pay a fine of £40 Scots.

SOUTHFIELD (now Hilton, Murtle) was feued in 1612 to Thomas Murray, at a feu duty of £20 Scots, and is now part of Murtle, owned by John Gordon's Trustees.

WESTFIELD was feued in 1729 to Patrick Duff of Culter at a feu duty of £2 Scots.

NORTHFIELD was feued in 1629 to James Gordon at a feu duty of £30 Scots, and ultimately became part of the estate of Auchmill, which it adjoined.

Other portions subsequently feued include :—

| <i>Estate.</i> | <i>Date of Charter or Charters.</i> |
|---|---|
| MIDDLEFIELD (Woodside) (to Thomas Mossman) ... | 1754 |
| SPRINGHILL (to William Forbes of Echt) | 1764 |
| MASTRICK (to J. Menzies) | 1764 |
| CAIRNCRY (to Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk) ... | 1764 |
| ROSEHILL | 1773 |
| MUIR OF PITFODELS (including Morkeu, Derncleugh, Craigbank, Ellangowan, Hillhead, Newton) ... | 1750 |
| STOCKETHEAD (including Burnside, Woodhill, Maryville, Oakbank, Raeden, Summerhill and South Stocket Cottage) | 1754-75 |
| ASHHILL | 1808 |
| HARTHILL, BELLFIELD, MIDDLEFIELD and JESSIEFIELD (All near Kingswells). | 1809 |
| WHITEMYRES COMMONTY | 1829-70 |
| CRAIGIEBUCKLER, which includes Viewfield, Springfield, Braeside and Slopefield, was sold in | 1817 |

THE COMMON GOOD.

The grant of the Forest of the Stocket synchronises with the establishment of "The Common Good," into which the burghers thenceforth paid their tack duties instead of to the Crown officials. For over two hundred years "The Common Good" continued to prosper, until, in 1551, the City Fathers, like the foolish servant, decided to bury their talent. It speaks not a little for the subsequent controllers of the finances of the City that, by their sagacity and prudence, their vision and their thrift, they retrieved in other directions the advantage so wantonly lost. And the result of their patient toiling and little-by-little accumulation is reflected in the fact that to-day the assets of "The Common Good" of the City amount to no inconsiderable sum.

RIDING OF THE MARCHES.

At the present time, when conveyances of land are reduced to writing, and instruments in exact terms and usually containing a plan drawn to scale by a surveyor are carefully recorded in a statutory Central Register, it is difficult to visualise the state of matters that obtained when a few external landmarks were all that stood for the present day careful, elaborate procedure. The sanctions of religion were, in very early times, enlisted with a view to preventing interference with boundaries, as is evidenced in the injunction—"Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark," and, in more recent times, the Church joined with the State in enforcing a due respect for march stones. But, despite all the efforts of authority, mankind could not be trusted, and the memory of the mass had to be called in to give practical effect to ecclesiastical and civil edicts. Periodic visitation by those appointed for the purpose was the means adopted by which fixity of boundary was most readily assured. This method also had the advantage of continuity of supervision, as, in early times, the whole population perambulated or rode the Marches. It is significant that, in some burghs on the Borders, a riding of the Marches takes place annually with great ceremony, and so that the whole body of burghers can participate, a public holiday is observed for the purpose.

In Aberdeen the first officially recorded riding of the Marches took place in 1525, but there is little doubt that there were frequent perambulations before that date. These and subsequent ridings appear to have been attended by the whole body of citizens, for, as late as 1634, there is an Act of Council ordaining that the "haill toun" be present at a then forthcoming riding. For a time, the records show that perambulations took place at fairly regular intervals, but the ceremony seems to have fallen into desuetude during the 18th century—in fact, the only riding between 1698 and 1790 took place in 1754. At the beginning of the 19th century the citizens, animated perhaps by a reflection of the ideals behind such movements as the French Revolution, entered into a period of strenuous March riding, and rode the Marches no fewer than eight times between 1800 and 1810. Thereafter, the ceremonies have been spasmodic in occurrence, the last riding taking place in 1889.

The third last perambulation of the Marches—that of 1848—gave rise to considerable dissatisfaction, which resulted in a new departure in the keeping of the Marches. It appears that, to enforce a right of way, a dyke at Hilton was knocked down by the riding party, while the question of the right-of-way disputed was still a matter of litigation. This high-handed action led to a proposal being adopted to transfer the care and perambulation of the March stones to "a proper and qualified person," and shortly after there was appointed "a ground officer or inspector of the Town's Lands and Marches," who held office from 1849 to 1867. This officer kept a carefully engrossed "March Book," and presented to the Council annually a report on the March stones. The March Book and the Annual Reports contain much useful information as to the alterations of the boundary line and the March stones, consequent upon the straightening of burns and ditches, the squaring and enlargement of fields and the formation of new streets as the City grew in extent.

Appendix V. furnishes a reference to the entries in the Council records relative to perambulations of the Marches.

The Cuttle Hill, Kingswells, near the centre of the Stocket Forest, is perhaps the best view-point from which a readily accessible and comprehensive survey of the Freedom Lands as a whole may be obtained.

APPENDIX I.

CHARTER BY KING ROBERT THE BRUCE TO THE
BURGESSES OF ABERDEEN, 10TH DECEMBER, 1319
(TRANSLATION).

ROBERT, by the grace of God King of Scots, to all good men of his whole land, greeting. Know ye that, with the advice and approval of the good men of our kingdom, we have granted and set to feufarm, and by our present charter confirmed to our burgesses and community of our burgh of Aberdeen, our foresaid burgh of Aberdeen and our forest of the Stocket with the pertinents; to be held and had by the foresaid burgesses and community, their heirs and successors, for ever, of us and our heirs in fee and heritage and in free burgage, by all their right meiths and marches, with mills, waters, fishings, petty customs, tolls, courts, weights, measures, and with all other privileges, conveniences, easements, usages, and their just pertinents by law and usage belonging, or which shall in future belong, to the sett of the said burgh and forest; paying yearly therefor the said burgesses, their heirs and successors, to us or to our heirs, as aforesaid, two hundred and thirteen pounds, six shillings and eightpence sterling* only, into our Treasury at two terms yearly, half at the feast of Pentecost and the other half at the feast of Saint Martin in winter, in place of all other service, exaction, usage or demand. It is also our will and we grant that our said burgesses, the heirs and successors thereof, freely and without hindrance from anyone, in the fields, moors and other portions whatsoever of the said forest outwith the wood of the Stocket, hard by the foresaid burgh of Aberdeen, may perform every kind of tillage, erect dwelling-houses and other buildings, dig fuel, and exercise, carry out and regulate other conveniences whatsoever, as they shall see fit to arrange: reserving for ourselves and our heirs only the green-growth of the great trees in the foresaid wood, and game likewise, should any such chance to be found in the same forest. We have likewise granted to the same our burgh, the burgesses and community thereof, their heirs and successors, that no justiciar of the forest or any other person of our kingdom, of whatsoever condition or rank he be, shall in any way interfere with or take cognisance of the administration of the present grant and our infeftment, or of infringements thereof, save only our Chamberlain for the time being; but so that whosoever shall be lawfully convicted of such infringements, or of destroying the green wood, or the game in the said forest, shall undergo the punishment of such crime in his own person, and no other: the chief grant, however, and our infeftment remaining in full force strictly and for ever. In witness whereof we have ordered our seal to be appended to these presents. Witnesses:—William, Bishop of Saint Andrews, and William, Bishop of Dunkeld; Bernard, Abbot of Arbroath, and our Chancellor; Thomas Ranulph, Earl of Moray, and Lord of Annandale and Man; Robert of Keith, our Marischal; Gilbert of Hay, our Constable; Alexander Fraser, our Chamberlain,—Knights. At Berwick-on-Tweed, the tenth day of December, in the fourteenth year of our reign.

* This was "Scots" and not "Sterling" in the present meaning of the term.

APPENDIX II.

LETTER BY MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, UNDER THE GREAT SEAL, EMPOWERING THE LORD PROVOST, BAILLIES, COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY OF ABERDEEN AND A MAJORITY OF THEIR FELLOW-CITIZENS TO FEU THE FREEDOM LANDS, 8TH FEBRUARY, 1551.

(TRANSLATION).

MARY, by the grace of God Queen of Scots, to all her good men to whom the present letters shall come, greeting. Whereas it is well known to us and to our dearest cousin and tutor, James, Duke of Chatelherault, Earl of Arran, Lord Hamilton, protector and governor of our kingdom, and to the Lords of our Privy Council, that the provost, baillies, and community and inhabitants of our burgh of Aberdeen were many centuries past infeft in the fishings of the waters of Dee and Don and in the several estates lying within the freedom of our said burgh, by umquhile invincible Robert Bruce, King of Scots, and others his successors in these our times, our most noble predecessors of cherished memory, on whose souls may God have mercy; holding the same of us and our predecessors by the annual payment of a rental of two hundred and thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence to us and to our pensionaries, to whom a certain portion of the said rental is heritably assigned as salary: and which estates and fishings the aforesaid provosts and baillies and community of our said burgh, not only in these times, but beyond the memory of men, to the very great advantage of our said burgh, have let, divided into portions, to the fellow-citizens thereof. Nevertheless the neighbouring nobles of our kingdom, perceiving the profits accruing therefrom to the inhabitants of said burgh, do, in the hope of acquiring the same, intrude, encroach, mix themselves up with and so disturb the common weal thereof, that there is left for its inhabitants no rest and no peaceful municipal life. Wherefore to avoid and put an end to such disturbances and to remove all occasion and exciting cause therefor, and lest in future there be anything which can in any way allure the nobles to this our burgh, and that the common good thereof, and its annual rental be increased for the more efficient protection of its citizens; with special consent and assent of our aforesaid governor and Lords of our Privy Council, we have given, granted and committed, and for us and our successors by the tenor of these presents do give, grant, and commit, to the provost, baillies and councillors and to the community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, present and to come, and to a majority of their fellow-citizens, full power, free privilege and special license to lease, rent, let, and, now and at all future times as often as a vacancy shall occur, to give in perpetual heritable emphyteusis or feufarm, the aforesaid fishings and estates, which within the freedom

of our said burgh they hold, have and possess in feufarm of us and our predecessors, to the fellow-citizens and free burgesses of our said burgh, especially to those to whom they are at present leased for rent and to their heirs male likewise free burgesses and also actual inhabitants of our said burgh, and therein enjoying the freedom of privileges and carrying on trade, and to no others : in return for an annual increase of the said rent to be paid to the aforesaid provost, baillies and councillors, and to be applied to the use of the common good of our said burgh, and for the protection thereof : such feuars, however, to be by no agreement exempted from the courts and pleas of our said burgh, or from payment of subsidies and contributions (which are called taxes and stents) or from the obedience due by use and wont to our said burgh, its officers, governors, and holders of public offices. Providing also that to no woman shall be granted the privilege to enjoy or possess the aforesaid feus or any part thereof, in heritable liferent, conjunct infeftment or any other way. And for the carrying out of the premises we have given and granted, and by the tenor of these presents for us and our successors do give and grant, to the aforesaid provost, baillies and community of our said burgh and their successors, full power to choose, for the leasing, letting and giving of the foresaid feus, agents to whom shall be committed (power) to give, grant and complete heritable infestments of feu farm of the fishings and estates aforesaid, with such stringent and binding clauses and conditions that their intention to benefit the common good may be clearly seen ; especially that it shall not be lawful for anyone of them or their heirs to whom it may happen that the aforesaid feus are granted to dispone or alienate the same, or any the least portions thereof, to any person or persons whatsoever except to male burgesses of our said burgh, merchants and actual inhabitants thereof, as above set forth : and if they shall do otherwise, their feus to revert to our said burgh for its free disposition, and for a time to lie vacant in the hands of the provost, baillies, councillors and community thereof, without prejudice or injury or any loss of our present permission or licence or the privileges thereof, to follow or be brought about in any way to the remaining feuars aforesaid. Saving in all respects and reserving for us and our successors the feu duties of the aforesaid waters and fishings thereof formerly due to us and our predecessors before the present grant, with the account thereof made yearly by use and wont to our exchequer. In witness whereof we have ordered our great seal to be appended to these presents. At Edinburgh, the eighth day of the month of February in the year of our Lord one thousand five hundred and fifty-one, and of our reign the tenth.

APPENDIX III.

CONFIRMING CHARTER BY MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS,
DATED 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1553.
(TRANSLATION).

MARY, by the grace of God Queen of Scots, TO ALL good men of her whole land, churchmen and laymen, greeting. KNOW YE that with the advice, consent and authority of our most dear cousin and tutor, JAMES, Duke of Chatelherault, Earl of Arran, Lord Hamilton, protector and governor of our kingdom, we have fully considered a certain charter of feufarm and gift—by our command seen, read, inspected and carefully examined, being whole, entire, not erased, not cancelled, nor suspected in any part—made by our beloved provost, baillies, councillors and community of our burgh of Aberdeen, by unanimous consent and assent, as well as by our express privilege and licence granted to the foresaid provost, baillies, councillors and community, with advice and consent of our said governor and the Lords of our Privy Council—in favour of the underwritten fellow-citizens of our said burgh, their male heirs and assignees, burgesses of the foresaid burgh and actual inhabitants thereof, making use therein of the liberty of their privileges and of trade, and to no others—of all and sundry the fishings of Dee and Don, and also of all and sundry the lands set forth below, with their profits, pendicles and pertinents used and wont, lying within the freedom of our foresaid burgh and our sherifffdom of Aberdeen, heritably belonging to the said provost, baillies, councillors and community, and to our foresaid burgh : to each his own respective portion as follows, to wit :—

(Here follow names of grantees)

with all and sundry profits, pendicles, rights and pertinents thereof whatsoever : to be held of the foresaid provost, baillies, councillors and community of our burgh of Aberdeen aforesaid, in feufarm, heritage and free burgage—in this form :—

“ TO ALL who shall see or hear this charter, the provost, baillies, councillors and community of the burgh of Aberdeen, eternal greeting in the Lord. Whereas we, taking into consideration the common good of our burgh, in order that the policy thereof may be increased and that wealth may more easily be acquired by the poor citizens of our burgh, calling to mind also the Acts of Parliament of the kingdom of Scotland, made by umquhile most noble kings of Scots, of cherished memory, regarding letting to feufarm, the advantage of our foresaid burgh in this matter being kept in view, weighed and considered by means of long and careful discussion and mature deliberation, have ordered, decreed and ordained that all and sundry

our fishings in the waters of Dee and Don, as well as our estates or townships, with the pertinents thereof lying within the freedom of our said burgh, belonging to us in heritage, be let in feufarm or perpetual heritable emphyteusis to our fellow-citizens, their male heirs and assignees, burgesses and actual inhabitants of our foresaid burgh, therein enjoying the liberty of privileges and carrying on trade, and to no others, for the common good of our burgh, and for the increase of our yearly rental : Know ye, therefore, that we, with unanimous consent and assent, induced by the above considerations and by other reasonable causes and motives influencing us and affecting our common good, and also in return for certain sums of money to be paid to us in coin by sundry of our fellow-citizens named below, and to be wholly converted and applied to the necessary uses of our said burgh for the common good thereof, as well as for the yearly increase of our rental by the sum of twelve pounds two shillings and two pence, usual money of the kingdom of Scotland, more than ever our said fishings and lands with their pertinents, whether by way of old rent or of quinquennial grassum, formerly paid to us and to our predecessors ; also with express privilege and licence of our most serene lady, Mary, by the grace of God reigning Queen of Scots, with consent and advice of her most dear cousin and tutor, James, Duke of Chatelherault, Earl of Arran, Lord Hamilton, invincible protector and governor of the kingdom of Scotland, and of the Lords of the Privy Council, granted to us as above under the great seal—have set, rented, let and put heritably to feufarm or perpetual emphyteusis, and by this our present charter have confirmed, as well as by the tenor of these presents, we do set, rent, let and put heritably to feufarm or perpetual emphyteusis, and by this our present charter do confirm, to our same respective fellow-citizens named below and to their male heirs and assignees aforesaid, and to no others, all and sundry the aforesaid fishings of Dee and Don, as well as all and sundry our lands underwritten, with their profits, pendicles and pertinents, used and wont, to wit : To

(Here follow names of grantees)

with all and sundry the profits, pendicles, rights and pertinents thereof whatsoever, as is more fully set forth in our charters, specially executed thereanent to them respectively. TO BE HELD and had all and sundry the above-written fishings and lands, with the pertinents used and wont, by our foresaid fellow-citizens above named respectively, their male heirs and assignees, burgesses and actual inhabitants of the said burgh, therein enjoying the freedom of privileges and carrying on trade, and by no others, of us and our successors, provosts, baillies, councillors and community of the said burgh, in feufarm or emphyteusis and in free burgage for ever, by all their right ancient meiths and marches as they lie in length and in breadth, in the bounds and limits thereof, in woods, plains, moors, marshes, roads, paths, waters, pools, streams, meadows, pastures, pasturages, hawkings, huntings, fishings, rabbits, rabbit-warrens, dovecots, doves, with buildings thereon constructed or to be constructed, with quarries, stones, firewood and lime, with free ish and entry, and with all and sundry other liberties, conveniences and easements and just pertinents

whatsoever, as well not named as named, as well below the ground as above the ground, far and near, belonging, or which may in any way in future justly belong, to the foresaid fishings and lands, with the pertinents, as freely, quietly, fully, wholly, honourably, well and in peace as any fishings or lands within the kingdom of Scotland, are given, sold, put to feufarm, or possessed, without any revocation, reclamation or challenge by us, our successors, or others whatsoever. PAYING therefor yearly our foresaid co-burgesses above set forth, their male heirs and assignees aforesaid, to us and our successors, or to the collectors for the time, for such fishings and land above specified, the annual rents or sums of money respectively underwritten, to wit :

(Here follow amounts payable).

PROVIDING, however, through all, that our said fellow-citizens, their male heirs and assignees aforesaid, shall be in no way exempt from the courts and pleas of our said burgh or from payment of the subsidies and contributions which are called taxes and stents, or from the due service and obedience formerly used and wont to our said burgh, our officers, governors and those holding public offices ; provided also that it shall not be lawful for any woman to use, enjoy or possess the foresaid fishings or lands or any part or profit thereof in liferent, heritage, conjunct infeftment or any other way ; further, it shall not be lawful for our said fellow-citizens, their heirs and assignees, or for any of them, to possess in heritage two half nets, or two fishings, or two townships of lands at the same time, in virtue of any privilege, licence or authority in any time to come ; moreover, it shall not be lawful for our said co-burgesses, their heirs or assignees, or their tenants, in any manner in future of new to plough, manure, cultivate, burn or sow portions not already under cultivation of the foresaid lands above set forth with their pertinents (excepting the heritable possessor of the said lands of Kingshill and his heirs and assignees aforesaid and their tenants, for whom it shall be lawful to till, plough and sow the same lands within limits specified in our special charter executed thereanent, as is set forth in the same, because the lands at present are almost waste, desert and sterile, producing no fruit) ; and that the rest of our co-burgesses, neighbours and inhabitants of our said burgh, present and to come, shall enjoy and have the benefit of the customary privileges of feeding animals and flocks, and of casting, digging and leading earth, firewood, peats, turf, heath, and all kinds of fuel within the commonity of the said burgh, as often as need shall be, in manner and form as before the execution of this present charter they enjoyed and possessed ; further, if it shall happen that our said fellow-citizens, their male heirs and assignees aforesaid, or any one thereof, fail to pay the said feu duties due at the respective yearly terms as aforesaid, at the terms above-written, or at least within twenty days immediately following any term, while legally requested to pay by the collector of the said burgh for the time, in that case and as often as it occurs the delinquent or delinquents shall lose the right of infeftment, and the charter proceeding thereon shall be null, void, and altogether without effect.

RESERVING, however, in all respects, the foresaid fishings and lands with their pertinents to the persons who at present have the same respectively in lease, while the years and terms of their lease are still to run. Saving and reserving also to our foresaid supreme lady, the Queen, and to her successors, the annual feu duties, burgage services thereon due and customary. And we, the said provost, baillies, councillors and community of Aberdeen and our successors shall warrant, acquit and for ever defend all and sundry the fishings and lands above set forth, with their profits, pendicles and pertinents used and wont, for our foresaid fellow-citizens above-named, their male heirs and assignees aforesaid, and for no others, in all and through all, in like form and effect as aforesaid. IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have caused our common seal to be appended to these presents, strengthened by the subscriptions of the greater part of our commissaries for the time : at Aberdeen, the twelfth day of the month of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand five hundred and fifty-three, before witnesses : Sir James Barclay, Master Edward Menzies, chaplains ; Masters Andrew Harvey, Thomas Young, Gilbert Murray, John Nicholson, and John Kennedy, Notaries Public, with divers others."

Which charter, feufarm and gift therein contained, in all its points and articles, conditions and forms, and circumstances whatsoever, in all and through all, in like form and effect as aforesaid, with advice, consent and authority of our said most dear cousin and tutor, we do approve, ratify, and for us and our successors for ever confirm : reserving to us and our successors our feu-duties, rights and services of the said lands and fishings with their pertinents, due and customary to us before our present confirmation. MOREOVER, with advice, consent and authority of our governor aforesaid, of our own queenly power and royal authority, we will, grant, and for us and our successors decree and ordain, that this our present confirmation shall be of as great strength, power and efficacy for the fellow-citizens above-written of our said burgh, their heirs and assignees aforesaid, and any one thereof, as if the same had been given and granted by us under our great seal in greater form to them and each of them before the sasines taken by them on the foresaid fishings and lands respectively, notwithstanding that the sasines were taken by them thereupon before our present confirmation. IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have ordered our great seal to be appended to this our present charter of confirmation. WITNESSES : The most reverend father in Christ, John, Archbishop of St. Andrews, our Treasurer ; our beloved cousins, George, Earl of Huntly and Moray, Lord Gordon and Badenoch, our Chancellor ; Archibald, Earl of Argyle, Lord Campbell and Lorne ; the venerable father in Christ, George, Commendator of our Monastery of Dunfermline, Keeper of our Privy Seal ; our beloved familiar Masters Thomas Marjoribanks of Ratho, Clerk of our Rolls, Register and Council ; John Bellenden of Auchnoule, our Justice Clerk ; and Alexander Livingston of Donypace, Director of our Chancery. At Edinburgh, the fifteenth day of the month of September in the year of our Lord one thousand five hundred and fifty-three, and of our reign the eleventh.

APPENDIX IV.

DESCRIPTION OF MARCH STONES.

All Stones are lettered "A B D" with progressive number ;

* signifies that original saucer stone is still in place beside lettered stone ;

† signifies that stone is also marked C R (City Royalty), which mark applies only to stones upon the Inner Marches.

| Stone Numbers. | As Existing and Situated in 1929. | As Described in 1698 (from <i>Kennedy's Annals</i>). |
|---|---|--|
| A.† | At the mouth of the Ferryhill Burn on the Dee, opposite the Old Ford Road. | — |
| <i>Note.</i> —This stone is the starting point of the Inner Marches on the South. | | |
| 1.† | At the north gable of 81 Hardgate, a house now belonging to the Corporation. | (1) <i>At an march stone on the south side of the Justice Mylne burn forment the nook of the Coble's Croft contigue to the east side of the King's gate called the Wain gate, on the south side of the new bridge, where there is ane great stone, marked with an sauser, at the north west nook of the houses lately built by Ferriehill.</i> |
| <i>Note.</i> —This stone marks the junction of the Inner and Outer Marches on the South. The original lettered stone, which is broken in two, is laid in the floor of the cellar of No. 81 Hardgate. 1525 <i>Description</i> : "The first Marche was fund one the wast part of the town, on the south part of Rublaw, ane gret grey stane, with ane sawessir abov the Halfmyll Croce." | | |
| 2. | At the Police Station where Hardgate meets Fonthill Road, near the Branch Reading Room. | (2) <i>Therefrae, ryding in the Hardgate to the house called the Halfpennie house, where there is an march-stone, with an sauser, at the north-west side of the said house, on the brink of the burne.</i> |
| <i>Note.</i> —This stone was missing at the Riding of the Marches in 1889, but has since been replaced. | | |
| 3. | At the North end of Nellfield Place, adjoining Nellfield Cemetery. | (3) <i>Therefrae, north-west to the houses at Cowperstown, where there is an sauser stone, two ells or thereby from the south-east gavel of the westmost house.</i> |
| <i>Note.</i> —The top of the former stone was above ground in 1889, but is no longer visible. | | |

| Stone Numbers. | As Existing and Situated in 1929. | As Described in 1698 (from <i>Kennedy's Annals</i>). |
|----------------|---|---|
| 4. | At the entrance gate to 113 Great Western Road. | (4) <i>Therefrae, south, a pair of butts where there is a stone with a sauser in an dyke belonging to the lands of Pitmuckstown.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —The original lettered stone is laid into the pavement and adjoins the present stone. | |
| 5. | In the Great Western Bowling Club's grounds at the east end of the pavilion. | (5) <i>Therefore, south-west or thereby to Collielaw, where there is ane grate stone on the east syde of several other stones.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —This stone was placed in its present position in 1889, when alterations took place in the neighbourhood. | |
| 6. | In the back garden of No. 11 Hamerfield Avenue. | (6) <i>Therefrae, south south-west or thereby, to ane great craige stone, wherein there is an sauser and four witter holes, and ane carne beside the same, above the Lands of Ruthriestown.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —There is situated beside this stone a roughly-squared stone, on the flat top of which the letters "A B D" are rudely cut. In the Mannofield area this type of stone was intermediate between the saucered and the present type, and is the last survivor of the type. | |
| 7. | Beside No. 2 Craigton Road, near the present City and County boundary. An estate march stone adjoins it. | (7) <i>Therefrae wast or thereby to Leslie's Fourd, where there is a stone on the east side of the fourd marked with ane P for propertie where there is a carne.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —Craigton Road is constructed along the line of the old Cults Road. An agreement, dated 5th January, 1610, between the Town Council and Gilbert Menzies of Pitfodels defines the Marches between stones 7 and 12. | |
| 8.* | On left side of Craigton Road nearly opposite Kenfield Avenue. | (8) <i>Past to the Cult gate (road) quhair at the east end of the falds of Pitfoddells there is a ston with a sauser.</i> |
| 9. | On right side of Craigton Road about a hundred yards beyond Craigton Villa. | (9) <i>Therefrae, keepand the said gate wast or thereby, quhair there is an other eard-fast ston with an carne.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —This stone was missing in 1840 when it was replaced in an adjoining field. | |
| 10. | On left side of Craigton Road, opposite Slopefield Reservoir. | (10) <i>Keepand in the said gate quhair there is ane march-stone anent Banchrie with an sauser.</i> |
| 11. | On left side of Craigton Road, west of entrance lodge of Woodlands. | (11) <i>Keeping the said gate where there is ane great long eard-fast stone, with ane sauser anent Ardo.</i> |

| Stone Numbers. | As Existing and Situated in 1929. | As Described in 1698 (from Kennedy's Annals). |
|----------------|--|---|
| 12. | On right side of Craigton Road below Cults dam. | (12) <i>Frae that to the dam of Cults otherwise called the Mill-dam of Pitfoddells, where there is ane merch stone, with an sauser and four witter holes.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —At this point, the old road—the Landmyr—or March road—now ends, but there is reason to think that originally it proceeded much further west—probably to the west end of the Forest and beyond. | |
| 13. | In a quarry north-west of Mains of Cults. | (13) <i>Therefrae to the north nook of the back hill of Cults where there is ane great stone, with four witter holes, and ane sauser.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —1525 Description: "An fra than as the get (road) passis to ane grei grey stane standand on the top of the Blak Hill of the Queyptis (Cults)." | |
| 14.* | On the farm of Hillhead of Cults, north-west of the farm buildings at the edge of a field. | (14) <i>Therefrae to the head of the falds of Cults where there is ane high march stone, with ane sauser on the top thereof.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —1525 Description: "To ane uther stane standand on the top of the hill of Queyptis, with three hollis hewing in the samin." | |
| 15. | In a field behind Baillieswells House and beside 4 dressed stones marked 1 to 4 which mark the springs of the Cults Water Supply. | (15) <i>Therefrae south-west to ane great ston beside Bells Wells with three holes in the syd and ane sauser on the tope.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —There was a saucer stone at this point 40 years ago, but it has since disappeared. | |
| | 1525 Description: "And frathin to ane gray stane with four hollis in the quhilk thar is irne zeit with laid to the est syd of the Bellies Wellis." | |
| 16.* | In a belt of trees behind the gardener's cottage at Dalmuinzie, adjoining Foggieton Muir. | (16) <i>Therefrae keepan the nether Wellheads south-west or thereby to ane great stone beneath Craigie bog on the east syde of the eastmost Grindlay Burne, marked with ane sauser.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —1525 Description: "Syne northt to ane uther march stane at the haid of the north-most of the saidis wellis." | |
| 17. | About 150 yards west of the belt above referred to in a patch of rough ground near a cairn of field gatherings. | (17) <i>On the west syde of the said Grindly Burn ane other stone with ane sauser.</i> |

| Stone Numbers. | As Existing and Situated in 1929. | As Described in 1698 (from <i>Kennedy's Annals</i>). |
|----------------|---|--|
| 18.* | At the north-east head of the Den of Murtle, on the farm of Hilton. | (18) <i>Therefrae, keepand west to the den of Murthell, quhair there is an uther sausered stone, with ane carne, on the edge of the road.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —The original letter stone at this point was described as broken in 1810, and it is probable that the present stone was erected after the 1821 riding. It is marked with a "T" on the back—this letter probably standing for "Thurburn," a former owner of the adjoining Lands of Murtle, who did much to beautify that estate about 1821. The cairn of 1698 still stands, but all traces of the road have now been obliterated. | |
| 19. | At the north-west head of the Den of Murtle on the farm of Westfield at the side of a field. | (19) <i>Therefrae to an march stone at the head of the den of Murthill on the south west syde of the myre betwixt the lands of Murthell and Westfield.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —An agreement dated 10th March, 1602, between the Town Council and Alexander Cumming of Culter defines the marches from stones 18 to 26. | |
| 20. | On the line of the same dyke as No. 19, but in the next field in rough ground. | (20) <i>No counterpart in 1698.</i> |
| 21. | On a knoll to the west of the Farm of Westfield. | (21) <i>From that wast towards the Wedder Craig (Beans Hill) quhair there is an other merch ston upon an Knowhead, with an carne.</i> |
| 22. | On another knoll in the same field as No. 21. | (22) <i>Straight to the Wedder Craig, quhair is an other ston upon an other knowhead marked with an sauser.</i> |
| 23.* | At the top of Beans Hill. | (23) <i>From that to the Wedder Craigs, quhair there is ane great eard-fast ston marked with an sauser.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —This is the highest point on the line of the Marches. | |
| 24. | At the north-western corner of the farm buildings of North Westfield. | (24) <i>Therefrae, north wast to ane march stone at Brunie's grave, marked with an sauser.</i> |
| 25.* | On the south-east face of the whin-covered Brunt Hill, near the Rotten or Silver Burn. | (25) <i>Frae that, north wast or thereby where there is an great craig with an sauser on the Brunthill.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —In 1678 the Rotten Burn is described as the boundary at this point. The present march stone is a little distance from the true march which was, no doubt, swampy and unsuitable at the time for marking with a stone. | |

| Stone Numbers. | As Existing and Situated in 1929. | As Described in 1698 (from <i>Kennedy's Annals</i>). |
|--|---|---|
| 26. | At the confluence of the Ord or Brodiach Burn with the Rotten or Silver Burn. | (26) <i>Therefrae descending down the said Brunthill north or thereby, to ane sink at the south side of the Reisk to the Rottenford, betwixt Brotherfield and the Lasts.</i> |
| <p><i>Note.</i>—A Ford, known as Rottenford, existed at this the extreme south-western end of the Marches. The Ford is no longer in existence, but to the west there exists a stretch of very old road, which may be a continuation of the Landmyr Road.</p> | | |
| 27. | Opposite Easter Ord near a foot bridge. | (27) <i>Frae that to the Ringing Stone.</i> |
| <p><i>Note.</i>—The Ringing Stone, which figures prominently in all old descriptions, was sited near this stone. The old ringing stone has vanished, but it has been replaced by a new lettered ringing stone. Between stones 27 and 28 there is a gap of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, but the Brodiach Burn supplies such a well defined natural boundary that artificial marks were considered unnecessary.</p> <p>1525 <i>Description</i>: "And frathin to the Rigand Stane, liand at the Furde beside the Ord."</p> | | |
| 28. | On the farm of Borrowstone. | (28) <i>From that, keeping the burn to Brediach Foord, betwixt the lands of Kinmundie and Kingwells, and therefrae keepand the burne to ane stonie foud betwixt the lands of Kinmundie, belonging to Craigmyll and Tulloch, belonging to Craibston.</i> |
| <p><i>Note.</i>—Beside the present stone there is an older stone with the letter "P" engraved thereon. "P" stands for "Propertie." The marking, however, has been reversed, so that the "P" looks like the figure "9." Stone No. 28 looks as if it were placed on the wrong side of the burn, but it appears that, at one time, the burn was diverted, and the stone lettered "P" signifies that the Town claimed the nook when the course of the burn was altered. Borrowstone belongs to the Weavers' Incorporation, and at this stone the "Doupin'" ceremonies of that craft took place.</p> <p>1525 <i>Description</i>: "And frathin est the bourne to the hill of Tulloch."</p> | | |
| 29.* | On the farm of Wynford below the farm steading near the burn. (Wynford means wain or waggon ford). | (29) <i>From that, keeping the burne where there is an march stone on the east syde of the burne, marked with an sauser, forgainst the room of Tulloch.</i> |
| <p><i>Note.</i>—1525 <i>Description</i>: "And fra the said hill northt to the march stane liand in the Myd burne with the sawchtis."</p> | | |

| Stone Numbers. | As Existing and Situated in 1929. | As Described in 1698 (from <i>Kennedy's Annals</i>). |
|----------------|---|---|
| 30.* | On the farm of Wynford at the confluence of the Tulloch and Blind burns which at this point go to form the Black burn. | (30) <i>From that to the Blackburn, where there is ane march stone at the Inver, betwixt the Blackburn and the Blindburn, marked with an sauser, forgainst ane Mother Swaill on the south side of the said Black burne, and against the said Inver. ("Mother Swaill" is a misreading of the 1597 agreement and should read "an gait in the fence").</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —An agreement, dated 3rd August, 1597, between the Town Council and Andrew Fraser of Stoneywood and Clinterty defines the March stones 30 to 34. | |
| 31.* | On the farm of Wynford at the extreme north-west corner of the Freedom Lands. | (31) <i>Ascending or holding up the said Blindburn, north-east or thereby, still keeping the sink, and the said Blindburn, at the south side of Elrickhill, while it come to the head of the said Blindburn where there is ane little moss, with an cairne in the midst thereof.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —This is the Douping Stone at which Burgesses were initiated at Ridings of the Marches. 1525 <i>Description</i> : "And frathin asscended est southest to the well haid." | |
| 32.* | On the farm of Tulloch in a cairn of stones below Southside of Clinterty. | (32) <i>Included in the description of Stone No. 31.</i> |
| 33.* | On the farm of Tulloch near the source of the Blindburn. | (33) <i>Included in the description of Stone No. 31.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —1525 <i>Description</i> : "And frathin to the hucht of the hill of Tulloch, as wind and water shears be the gret marche stanniss markit with the sauchter." | |
| 34. | On the farm of Greenwelltree near the Garlet burn at the point where the march reaches the Chapman Road. | (34) <i>Holding through the midst of the said little moss to the head of the Garlet burn, and from that descending down the said burn, till it come to the foord at the Chapman rode, where there is ane stone marked with an sauser, where the said rode crosses the foord, and an cairne beside the same.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —The Freedom boundary at this point seems to have followed the burn to the foord, about 50 yards lower down, where the Chapman Road crossed the Garlet. 1525 <i>Description</i> : "And frathin descendaud est throcht the haid of the stang wood to the marcht stane liand in the strit (Stream) that rinis cors the gait, and the said stane lvis in the hie gait (highway)." It appears that, at this date (1525), the term "Chapman Road" had not displaced the earlier designation of the road as <i>via regia</i> or "high gait." The notes of 1525 end at this point, as the march, herefrom to the Spital, appears to have followed the highway, a circumstance which made a detailed description unnecessary. The name "Stoneywood," although originating here, has its emphasis transferred to the other end of the territory near the Don. | |

| Stone Numbers. | As Existing and Situated in 1929. | As Described in 1698 (from <i>Kennedy's Annals</i>). |
|----------------|--|---|
| 35. | On the farm of Greenwelltree on the line of the Chapman Road. | (35) <i>Holding up the said Chapman rode, where there is ane march stone marked with an sauser on the syde of the Croft, called the Greenwelltree.</i> |
| 36. | On the farm of Greenwelltree on the line of the Chapman Road. | (36) <i>Therefrae keeping the said rode to ane march-stone, marked with an sauser in an myre at the north syde of the hill of Brimond in the south syde of the rode, with an carne.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —In the wood between stones 36-37 there is an interesting section of the old King's highway—the chapman or pedlars' road of later days. | |
| 37. | On the farm of Ashtown in front of the steading. | (37) <i>Therefrae, keeping the said Chapman road till it come to ane great march-stone, marked with ane P, for propertie, and ane sauser at the wast head of the croft of Ashehillocks.</i> |
| 38. | On the South side of the road from Ashtown near the bridge where the Gouff burn issues from the moss of Brimmond. | (38) <i>Keeping the said Chapman rode till the Gouff burn and from that keeping in the said rode to an eard-fast stone on the south syde of the rode marked with an sauser.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —Until comparatively recent years, the moss near this stone was a subject of revenue to the town when "moss leave" there brought to the City Exchequer an annual payment of £1 2s. 2½d. As the moss is exhausted, no payment is now made. | |
| 39. | On the North side of the road from Ashtown about 50 yards beyond No. 38. | (39) <i>From that till another stone with ane sauser on the south syde of the said rode.</i> |
| | | (39a) <i>Therefrae to another march stone, marked with a sauser; all of them at the head of the folds belonging to Crabston.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —It appears that this stone marks the original extent of the Lands of Craibstone in the direction earlier known as the top of the folds of Craibstone. The portion of Craibstone now within the Freedom Lands was a subject of controversy with the Town Council for a century. | |
| 40. | On the farm of Kirkhill in front of Newhills Convalescent Home and built into the dyke. | (40) <i>From that to the brow of the hill, betwixt Sclettie and Crabston, where there is ane great stone, with an sauser and ane Cairn.</i> |
| 41.* | On the farm of Netherhills on the South side of the road leading from Newhills Parish Church to Bucksburn. | (41) <i>Therefrae keeping the said rode to another stone, marked with an sauser and a carne, betwixt the said lands, in the north side of ane little moss.</i> |

| Stone Numbers. | As Existing and Situated in 1929. | As Described in 1698 (from <i>Kennedy's Annals</i>). |
|----------------|---|---|
| 42.* | On the farm of Netherhills on the South side of the road leading from Newhills Parish Church to Bucksburn. | (42) <i>Therefrae to another march stone, on the east side of the moss, in the east side of an corn ridge belonging to Nether Newhills.</i> |
| 43. | At the edge of the field in front of the garden of Wagley Cottage on the road leading from Newhills Parish Church to Bucksburn. | (43) <i>Keeping the said rode, to the north nook of the Croft of Wagley where there is an eard-fast stone, with an sauser and an carne.</i> |
| 44. | Near the Bucks burn on the side of the Chapman Road as it ascends the steep bank on its way to Wagley. | (44) <i>From that, holding through the said Croft of Wagley to an great sausered stone on the bank of the Bucks burn on the wast side of the said burn, above the old damme and foord of the samen.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —This stone is situated beside the old ford, the steps therefrom ascending to the old road being still in existence. Further up the burn lie the ruins of the Meal Mill built by the Town about 1616, and reconstructed, as two built-in stones marked "A B D" and "1745" show, about the latter date. | |
| 45.* | On the farm of Newton of Auchmill west of the steading and at the bend of the road leading to the old mill of Bucksburn. | (45) <i>Therefrae, crossand the said burn and keepand an dyke eastward to the old dykes of Auchmill, while it come to ane march stone lyand on the north syde of the said gate.</i> |
| | <i>Note.</i> —The head of this stone is broken. | |
| 46. | On the farm of Westerton of Auchmill on the West side of the road and south of the farm. | (46) <i>No counterpart in 1698.</i> |
| 47. | On the farm of Westerton of Auchmill on the North side of the same road where it makes the second bend. | (47) <i>No counterpart in 1698.</i> |
| 48.* | On the farm of Oldtown of Auchmill on the South side of the road at the stackyard. | (48) <i>Keeping the said gate, to an march stone on the east side of the said burn called North-field. (The burn has since been diverted Northward).</i> |
| 49. | On the east side of the Scatterburn or Cruives burn, where it joins the Don beside Persley Bridge. | (49) <i>Therefrae, holding down the said burn to the water of Done.</i> |
| 50. | At the foot of Deer Road above Grandholm Bridge and near Woodside Railway Station. | (50) <i>Holding down the said water of Done till it come to the old foud of the Dirra-dyke.</i> |

| Stone Numbers. | As Existing and Situated in 1929. | As Described in 1698 (from <i>Kennedy's Annals</i>). |
|---|--|---|
| 51. | At the top of Deer Road opposite Woodside School. | (51) <i>From that, keeping the said dyke till ye come to the Craighead, where ther is an stone marked with an sauser.</i> |
| 52. | In Smithfield Road at the south-east corner of Woodside School boundary wall. | (52) <i>Therefrae, keeping the said dyke till it comes to the teilled land of Caperstown.</i> |
| 53. | At the junction of Hilton Road and Hilton Drive. | (53) <i>Therefrae to an eard-fast stone on the high gate, with ane sauser.</i> |
| 54. | At the junction of Hilton Road and Back Hilton Road beside the entrance gate to Cummings Park. | (54) <i>Therefrae to the place where it was thought the kill (Kiln) of Caperstown stood.</i> |
| 55. | In Back Hilton Road on the North at the back entrance to Central Park. | (55) <i>Turning on again to the laigh and holding down the said laigh east or south-east or thereby, betwixt Coleston's dyke and the lands of Caperstown to the foudr above Peterstown called the King's foudr.</i> |
| 56. | Beside No. 41 Clifton Road near the junction of that Road with Great Northern Road. | (56) <i>Keeping the said gate, to ane march stane in the den, called Kitty-brouster, marked with an sauser and ane key.</i> |
| <i>Note.</i> —The sudden bend of the March northward between stones 55 and 56 is due to the former Den of Kittybrewster, which had to be circumvented. This Den has now been filled up. | | |
| 57. | At 55 Powis Terrace, opposite the entrance to Kittybrewster Railway Station. | (57) <i>Thereafter keeping the north east side of the gate, ston by ston as they are marked with sausers through the croft of Pickellitillin, in the midst of which croft there are two march stones, markt with Sanct Peter's key with carnes.</i> |
| 58. | Adjoining 21 Elmbank Terrace. | (58) <i>No counterpart in 1698.</i> |
| 59. | In Froghall Terrace facing the Railway Bridge leading to Canal Road. | (59) <i>No counterpart in 1698.</i> |
| 60. | In Froghall Road outside the Granite Works of Messrs. Charles McDonald, Ltd. | (60) <i>No counterpart in 1698.</i> |

| Stone Numbers. | As Existing and Situated in 1929. | As Described in 1698 (from <i>Kennedy's Annals</i>). |
|--|---|---|
| 61.† | In the front garden of Viewton Cottage No. 37 King's Crescent. | (61) <i>Therefrae to an eard-fast stone on the north side of the Spittlehill, marked with an sauser and an key.</i> |
| <i>Note.</i> —This stone marks the junction of the Inner and Outer Marches on the North side. Here also was the junction of the Roads from Aberdeen and Old Aberdeen with the Old North Road—probably the busiest road junction in the North of Scotland in early times. | | |
| 62.† | At 43 St. Peter's Street. | (62) <i>No counterpart in 1698.</i> |
| <i>Note.</i> —The original stone is in the adjoining Granite Works of Messrs. Bower & Florence. | | |
| 63.† | On the links at the back entrance to Pittodrie Football Ground. | (63) <i>Therefrae, keeping the cart-road to the Gallow Slacks, where there is an eard-fast stone, marked with an sauser and an key.</i> |
| 64.† | On the Links at the foot of School Road. | (64 and 65) <i>Therefrae down the north side of the said swell to an strype called the Banstickle (Tile) burn and holding down the said Banstickle burn till it enter the salt sea.</i> |
| 65.† | On the Links at the East end of Seaton Place. | |
| ℳ.† | At the mouth of the Tile Burn where it enters the Don. | (ℳ.) <i>And keeping in the sea syde to the block-house; and therefrae up the shoar.</i> |

Note.—From the mouth of the Tile Burn the boundary runs to Don mouth, thence along the Beach to Dee mouth, and up the Dee to the mouth of the Ferryhill Burn, where the Inner Marches start.

During last century the Inner Marches between Hardgate and the Spital were defined at intervals by wall marks "C.R.," of which there are known to remain one at March Lane and one in Alford Lane in the back wall of Holburn Parish Church.

APPENDIX V.

35

REFERENCES IN COUNCIL REGISTERS TO PERAMBULATIONS OF THE MARCHES.

| <i>Date.</i> | <i>Reference.</i> | <i>Council Register or Minutes.</i> |
|--------------|---|---|
| 1525. | The Town's Marches perambulated by the citizens with Gilbert Menzies, their Provost, on 3rd May, being Holy Cross Day | Vol. 11, p. 575 |
| 1531. | Persons appointed to ride and visit the Marches | Vol. 13, p. 246 |
| 1546. | Marches and Landmyres to be ridden and visited on Monday after Whitsunday by the hail neighbours of the town | Vol. 19, p. 109 |
| 1578. | Decree of the Estate Marches at the instance of William Menzies, Dean of Guild, on behalf of the community against the feuars | Vol. 30, p. 102 |
| 1590. | Report to the Council of the riding and visiting of the Marches | Vol. 33, p. 683 |
| 1594. | The Marches to be perambulated by the Magistrates, and the whole inhabitants to be convened in arms at the Wapinschaw | Vol. 34, p. 289 |
| 1598. | The Outer Marches visited and perambulated | Vol. 39, p. 394 Vol. 40, p. 21 |
| 1603. | The Outer Marches ordered to be ridden yearly, according to the Act of Convention of Borrows by the Burgesses and Craftsmen, and the hail town to be warned for that purpose | Vol. 41, p. 114 |
| 1603. | Report of the Riding of the Marches | Vol. 41, p. 130 |
| 1605. | Outer Marches visited and perambulated | Vol. 42, p. 225 |
| 1607. | Outer Marches visited and perambulated | Vol. 43, p. 152 |
| | Encroachments feued by the tenants of Easter Pitfodels on the Muir of the Town's property, to which interruption was made by the Dean of Guild. | |
| 1615. | The Marches distinguishing the Barony of Pitfodels from lands of Rubislaw, etc., not perfectly ridden or known, although they are distinctly set down in writ by contract between the town and Menzies, dated 5th January, 1610; therefore the riding of that part of the outer marches was continued to a future occasion, etc. | Vol. 47, p. 182 |
| 1632. | Report of riding Outer Marches | Vol. 52, p. 62 |
| 1636. | Inner Marches perambulated and proceedings thereon | Vol. 52, p. 267 |
| 1644. | Report of visiting Marches of Freedom Lands made by Master of Kirk Work to the Council | Vol. 53, p. 19 |
| 1661. | At the riding of the Outer Marches, Gilbert Gray, son of Thomas Gray, Provost, appointed bearer of the standard and ensign | Vol. 54, p. 292 |
| 1673. | Perambulation of the Outer Marches | Vol. 55, p. 505 |
| 1698. | Perambulation of the Outer Marches | Vol. 57, p. 656 |
| 1754. | Report of visiting Inner and Outer Marches to be entered in a book to be kept by the Clerk | Vol. 62, p. 31 |
| 1790. | Report of Committee appointed for visiting and perambulating, with detailed specification of the Marches | Vol. 66, p. 105 |
| 1790. | Perambulation of the Inner Marches | Vol. 66, p. 143 |
| 1795. | Report by Baillie Shepherd concerning the visiting and perambulating of Marches | Vol. 67, p. 81 |
| 1800. | Report of perambulation of Inner Marches by a Committee | Vol. 68, p. 2 |
| 1800. | Report of perambulation of Outer Marches | Vol. 68, p. 7 |
| 1801. | Report of perambulation of Inner Marches | Vol. 68, p. 40 |
| 1802. | Report of perambulation of Inner Marches | Vol. 68, p. 86 |
| 1803. | Report of perambulation of Inner Marches | Vol. 68, p. 125 |
| 1804. | Report of perambulation of Inner Marches | Vol. 68, p. 160 |
| 1805. | Report of perambulation of Inner Marches | Vol. 68, p. 193 |
| 1805. | Report of perambulation of Outer Marches | Vol. 68, p. 202 |
| 1806. | Report of perambulation of Inner Marches | Vol. 68, p. 243 |
| 1810. | Report of perambulation of Outer Marches | Vol. 69, p. 170 |
| 1819. | Report of perambulation of Inner Marches and encroachments ordered to be removed | Vol. 70, p. 205 |
| 1824. | Report of perambulation of Inner Marches and encroachments ordered to be removed | Vol. 71, p. 59 |
| 1840. | Report of perambulation of Outer Marches | Vol. 75, p. 224 |
| 1848. | Report of perambulation of Outer Marches | Vol. 78, p. 163 |
| 1861. | Report of perambulation of Outer Marches | Vol. 83, p. 149 |
| 1889. | Report of perambulation of Outer Marches | Minutes, 1888-9, p. 247 |

ILLUSTRATIONS
OF SUBJECTS OF INTEREST WITHIN
THE FREEDOM.

HOUSES ON LANDS FEUED IN 1551.



COUNTESSWELLS HOUSE.



HAZLEHEAD HOUSE.

HOUSES ON LANDS FEUED IN 1551.



FORRESTERHILL HOUSE.



SHEDDOCKSLEY HOUSE.

HOUSES ON LANDS FEUED IN 1551.



KINGSWELLS HOUSE.



RUBISLAW HOUSE.

(A modern house, No. 50 Queen's Road, is erected on the site of this house. A small section of the walls of the old house is incorporated in the new house.)

HOUSES ON LANDS FEUED IN 1551.



WOODSIDE HOUSE (LANDS OF CRUIVES).



TULLOCH FARMHOUSE AND STEADING.
(There was no mansion house erected on the Tulloch feu.)

LANDS OF BOGFAIRLEY FEUED IN 1551.
Houses on portions refeued in 1760.



FAIRLEY HOUSE.



CLOGHILL HOUSE.

LANDS OF BOGFAIRLEY FEUED IN 1551.
Houses on portions refeued in 1760.



BORROWSTONE.



DYKESIDE.



MANSE OF NEWHILLS.
(Lands of Kepplehills, feued in 1579.)



MIDDLEFIELD HOUSE (NEAR WOODSIDE).
(Lands feued in 1754.)



SPRINGHILL HOUSE.
(Lands feued in 1764.)



WHITEMYRES HOUSE.
(Lands feued in 1786.)



CRAIGIEBUCKLER HOUSE.
(Lands sold in 1817.)



BURNIEBOOZLE HOUSE.



AUCHMILL HOUSE.
(Built about 1750.)



BUCKSBURN HOUSE.
(Lands feued 1828.)



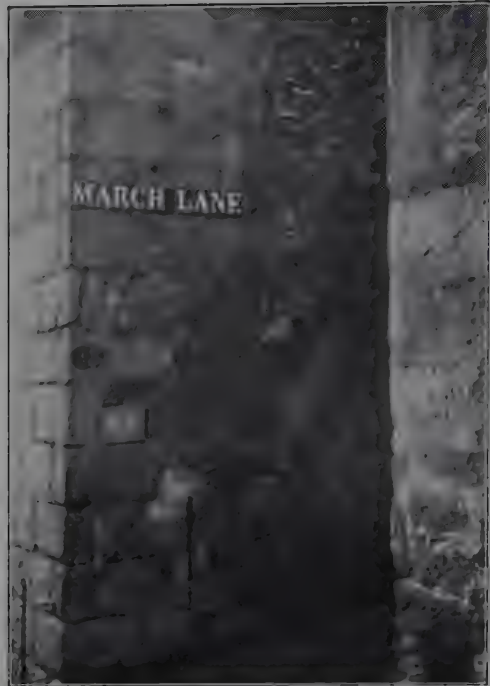
HILTON HOUSE (WOODSIDE).



FERNIELEA.



UNION GLEN.
(Showing lane above Inner Marches.)



MARCH LANE.
(Inner Marches.)



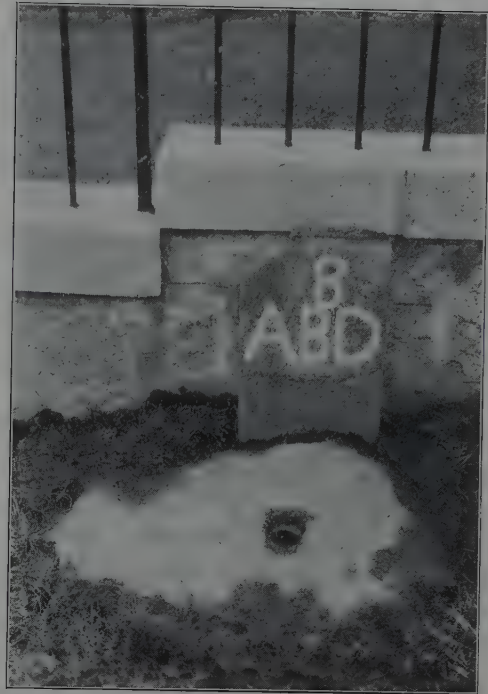
STONE A.
(On River Dee.)



STONE 1.
(Junction of Inner and Outer Marches.)
"CR" signifies "City Royalty."



STONE 6.
(With stone of intermediate type adjacent.)



STONE 8.
(With cup marked stone.)



STONE 12
(At Dam of Cults.)



STONE 13.
(Near Mains of Cults.)



STONE 18.
(At Den of Murtle.)



STONE 28.
(With Stone marked "P." for "Propertie" adjacent.)



STONE 61.
(At junction of Inner and Outer Marches.)



HILTON STONE.
(In Grounds of School being erected at Hilton.)



STONE 27 ("THE RINGING STONE.")



STONE 31 ("THE DOUPIN' STONE.")



STONE 49 (PERSLEY BRIDGE, 1891).



STONE 50 (near Bridge of Don)



NEAR STONE 34—"JOLLIES HOWE."
(Showing Chapman Road in foreground.)



NEAR STONE 44—BUCKSBURN "HOWES."
(Showing Chapman Ford and Chapman Road.)



WOODEND HOSPITAL.
(The site of the original or old mill, hence the name Oldmill.)



MAIDENCRAIG.
(The site of the new mill erected in 1616; burned down in 1885.)



BUCKSBURN MILL (Erected 1616; Discontinued 1860.)
(Showing Stones marked "A B D" and "1745.")



MILL OF BROTHERFIELD.



LONG CAIRN (NEOLITHIC AGE)—KINGSWELLS.
(108 feet long, 38 feet broad, 6 feet high.)



ROUND CAIRN (BRONZE AGE)—CULTS.



DEN OF FAIRLEY.
(Showing Fairies' Knowe or Law Cairn on left.)



GILLAHILL.
(From Graveyard on Gallow Hill.)



CONSUMPTION DYKE, KINGSWELLS.
(500 yards long, 33 feet wide, 6 feet high; built about 1850.)



ROUGH'S CAIRN.
(300 feet long, 20 feet broad, 20 feet high; built about 1850.)



QUAKERS' CHURCHYARD—KINGSWELLS.
(17th Century.)



NEWHILLS CHURCHYARD.
(Church built 1662.)



DRY-STONE BRIDGE AT EASTER ORD.
A.F. 1845 (Andrew Fowler, Proprietor).



OLD STEPPING STONES—BUCKSBURN HOWES.
(On line of the Chapman Road.)



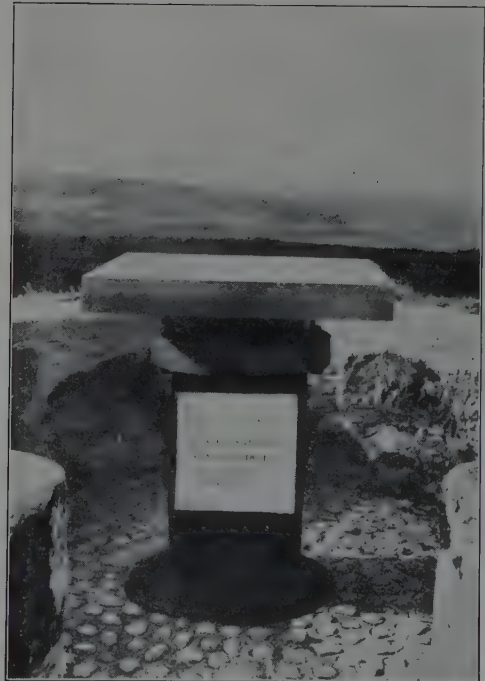
JUSTICE MILLS.



CAIRNCRY.
(Lands feued 1764.)



GALLOW HILL STONE.
(Near Links.)



BRIMMOND CHART.
(On summit of hill.)



BRIMMOND HILL.
(Watchman Brae at extreme left; Town's Moss in foreground.)



WATCHMAN BRAE
(Dwelling of Keeper of Town's Beacon, erected on top of Brimmond Hill in 1627.)

